

Rec'd Dec 17th

Ans Feb 16

Young May

Doct Engelmann Houston Texas
St Louis Dec 19th

My dear Doctor

A severe attack of illness has prevented my acknowledging the kindness of your letter & the accompanying paper on Gattaceae. I don't know that I shall ever be able to master the thorny subject but shall try.

Good Doct Watson has sent me a microscope by ~~the~~ ^{the} side of which I hope to get along a little better in the future. Is it the seed or roots of the white oak that you want? My father has given a man in the country an order for the acorns, but we will send roots also if you desire them. Will you



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please tell me what yuccas you have. We have the aloefolia, filamentosa, & gloriosa, all of which I will send you immediately if you can wish gift them. There is a beautiful species in Austin, growing more like the Tampas grass. In fact in walking through the garden & glancing at it carelessly I thought it some splendid variety of South American grass, but found it to be a Yucca. The leaves are about half an inch wide & from five to seven feet long, the edges finely serrated, scarcely not more than half a foot. I did not see it in bloom but was told that the scape was some five or six feet, bearing an immense number of white waxy flowers. Do you know this species? The lady promised to save me some seed. I shall



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wit to her. if she has preserved
them, will send them to you. If
I fail in getting the seed, will
endeavor to procure you a root.
Our dear old friend Dr Buckley is
living a few miles from Austin, cul-
minating a small farm, vis, I fear
from appearance, in poverty, which
is a disgrace to Texas. It was a shame
that they passed over such a man to
bestow upon me, a woman, the place
of State Botanist, but a greater shame
that they refuse him compensation for
past services, a debt of several thousands
of dollars, that would be such a help
to him now. We hope better things
from the incoming legislature, & then
I hope the Prosper will have justly
done him. I feel unworthy to value
his shoe latches as a botanist, would be
glad to know the things that he has
forgotten, but had I refused the honor

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P.S. Hope you will
not be disappointed
in my Botany & Texas Flora. I
will do the best I can.

they would not have given it to him? I
thought as I told Dr Watson there was a
"broad gap" in the class between
me & Mr Buckley, yet a knowledge
of Botany is at such a low ebb in
our State, that I felt without vanity
that I stood aghast. So when the Governor
asked me if I would have it. I think
fully said, yes, & shall try by hard
study, to grow each day more capable.
I have no herbarium. The insects in this
State are so numerous & troublesome that it
is almost an impossibility to preserve specimens.
Dr Lincicum sent me his for inspection,
but it was a sepulcher of dust; scarcely
a bone. A learned German Doctor of New
Braunfels whom I wrote, said his plants
had all met the same fate, that he could do
nothing that would conquer the bugs. Hoping
to hear from you. I remain Very Truly
Yours J Young



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